

Serial No. 09/955,288
Amendment Dated May 28, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 2, 2004

Docket No. LGS/S-0030A

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 13-19, 21-24, 26, 29-38, and 40 are pending in the application. Claims 15, 21, 23, 24, 30-32, 34-38, and 40 are allowed. By the Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 14, 16, 17, 22, 26, 29, and 33 are amended, and claims 12 and 39 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Support for the claims can be found in the specification including the original claims and figures. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication, at page 5, that claims 15, 21, 23, 24, 30-32, 34-38, and 40 are allowed, and that claims 2-4, 12-14, 16-19, 22, 26, 29, and 33 define patentable subject matter. However, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Objections

The Office Action objects to claim 2 for certain informalities. Applicant respectfully traverses the objection and submits that the above amendments obviate grounds for the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is thus respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 13, 14, 16-19, 22, 29, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that

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the above amendments obviate grounds for the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Applicant's submitted art in view of Tsukikawa (JP 05-129558). Because the references, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all the features of the claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter indicated to be allowable in claim 12 is incorporated into claim 1 for the sole purpose of expediting the prosecution and therefore, claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-4, 14, and 26 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as their added features and combinations thereof. Claim 39 is cancelled and the rejection thereof is therefore moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Garth D. Richmond**, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Carl R. Wesolowski
Registration No. 40,372
Garth D. Richmond
Registration No. 43,044

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703 766-3701 DYK:CRW:GDR/par
Date: May 28, 2004

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610